

## **Ulan Coal Mines CCC Meeting**

### **Minutes**

**Thursday 16 October 2008**

**Attending Guests:** Scott Lillis (SL), Bev Smiles (BS), Esme Martens (EM), Rod Williams (RW) (Umwelt), Gary Bruce (GB), John Webb (JW)

**UCML Attendees** - Phil English (PE), Jamie Lees (JL), Cheryl Holden (CH), Murray Wood (MW)

**Apologies:** Julia Imrie (JI), Gail Ratcliffe, Arthur Williams.

**Chair:** Esme Martens

**Date:** 16 October 2008

**Meeting Opened:** 3.15pm

**Meeting Closed:** 4.30pm

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Introductions were given by Meeting Attendees. PE welcomed JW to CCC.

#### **1 PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Previous minutes were accepted as a true and correct record on the 16 Oct 2008.

**Moved** by BS and **Seconded** by PE.

#### *Business Arising*

JL advised that Preliminary EA for UCML Continued Operations Project is available. 2 copies were distributed – to SL and EM. An issue with the UCML colour photocopier prevented printing of further copies. Copies will be distributed to rest of CCC asap.

#### **2 OVERVIEW – OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

PE gave operational update on mine. Key discussion points were:

- Environment and Community statistics for year to date.
- Planning Focus Meeting held for Ulan Coal -Continued Operations Project
- Moolarben – application for closure of roads outside lease
- Transgrid – compensation letter received, issues with air-strip
- s96(1) Modification – drafted, awaiting legal review (includes Rowan's Dam ROP, increase in Hub Stockpile capacity and CV1097).
- Water Management Strategy – Water Management Upgrade AFE approved.
- Waste Contract Review – significant decrease in waste disposal and financial savings
- Open Cut cleanup and rehabilitation program

BS asked why UCML need to increase capacity of Hub stockpile. Has production increased?

MW replied that long wall production has increased and to maintain compliance UCML needed to seek approval to increase capacity.

PE added that LWW1 is a longer long wall panel than previous long walls (approx 3km) and there is currently a bottleneck at the Hub stockpile, resulting in an increase in stock levels at the hub. He noted that the footprint of the stockpile won't change, just the volume.

EM asked for clarification that the increased capacity at the hub is not related to future operations i.e. Ulan West.

JL indicated that this is a separate issue and would be clarified later in the presentation.

MW gave update on production in the underground:

- Mine plan for UG – Total Drivage 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2008
- Development in MGW3, N2 panel, N2 mini mains and MG25.
- LW currently at around 16CT in LWW1.
- LW is planned to stop around 95m short of mains.
- Production has been very consistent. Volume is the key to success at Ulan.
- 4 continuous miners operating – this will drop back to 3 in Feb 08.
- LWW1 planned to stop production in 1<sup>st</sup> week of Feb 08.
- Summary of safety and production statistics presented for Q3 2008.

PE gave update on rehabilitation at Open Cut:

- Showed drawings of Barrier Pit and Telecom Hill rehab areas
- Approx 65ha reshaped between June-Sept 08. Aiming for approx 100ha for year.

BS asked how UCML work out the permeability of the spoil after rehab

JL advised that it's not known exactly however assumptions are made for permeability in the site water balance. The permeability of the spoil varies greatly due to compaction factors, particle etc.

PE added that the primary goal of the rehabilitation is long term stability and a sustainable landform

EM asked about plans to get rid of excess water from site i.e. sharing water with other mines

MW advised that UCML still has a Heads of Agreement with Wilpinjong for water sharing. There is currently no agreement with Moolarben.

### **3 ULAN COAL - CONTINUED OPERATIONS PROJECT UPDATE**

JL provided a project update and advised that there have been modifications to the proposed configuration of the Ulan West underground portal. He explained that the modification was designed to improve the future interaction between the Open Cut Extension and the Ulan West underground. The new configuration includes an out-of-pit dump for overburden.

The project boundary has also changed to exclude Stage 2 of the Moolarben Dam and provision for a northern discharge into the Talbragar River.

BS asked how Moolarben Dam fits in with the Moolarben Coal Mine lease

JL advised that the Moolarben Dam lease is adjacent to Moolarben Coal Mine Lease

JL advised that the modification also includes provisions for an area in the north for a future Talbragar River discharge. The size of the area is to allow flexibility in locating the pipeline and staging dam.

JW asked how many people are likely to be affected by the mine modification

JL advised that there are 6 properties within the project boundary – 1 on Bobadeen Rd and 5 in the Ulan West project area (3 residence exist over the Ulan West mine plan )

#### **4 ULAN COAL CONTINUED OPERATIONS - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

RW gave update on the following studies (an update on the remaining studies was not provided due to time constraints):

- Subsidence
- Surface Water
- Groundwater
- Ecology
- Traffic
- Cultural Heritage

BS asked whether the studies include the connectivity between surface and ground water

RW advised that this was being addressed in Groundwater Studies

JL added that a working party has been established with experts in subsidence, ground water and surface water working together on the assessments

BS asked whether the existing mine impacts are being factored into the proposed mine assessments

RW – Yes. The assessments are using baseline data from the current mine. This data is being reviewed to ensure it is suitable

SL asked how the water will be divided between the Talbragar and Goulburn Rivers

RW advised that this has not been determined yet

SL asked whether there are any piezometers near the Talbragar River

PE advised that UCML have a complex system of piezometers all over site and in the regional area. UCML's knowledge of groundwater is very good

SL asked whether any monitoring of water quality has been done for the Talbragar River

JL advised that there is a DWE water quality monitoring station at Elong. He noted that up until a few weeks ago there was no flow in the river. UCML have started undertaking weekly baseline sampling of the river. He also noted that a lot of streams and catchments deliver various water qualities to the Talbragar River.

JL explained that near goaf piezometers were being installed in virgin country as part of the groundwater monitoring network. A new piezometer was also planned to be installed in the barrier near LW12.

BS asked for an update on current ecological monitoring onsite

JL advised that targeted bat monitoring will be done this year. Fauna monitoring done every year – consultants will be onsite next week.

BS asked if Mt King were still doing the monitoring

PE – Yes however Umwelt are assisting to pull all the information together given the size of the monitoring program, i.e. over 56 km<sup>2</sup>.

BS asked if monitoring data is included in AEMR

PE – Yes. Most information is included in AEMR. Monitoring this year will be expanded to cover more rehab areas

JL clarified traffic access to the site – main access off Ulan Road. Wongaroo Rd may be used infrequently.

EM asked whether traffic assessment will include assessment of actual road design as a result of increased traffic

JL advised that UCML are not a road construction company. However the traffic assessment would consider all information from previous assessments and consider the cumulative impact issues.

PE acknowledged that roads were recognised as a real issue by all at the Planning Focus Meeting

MW added that the assessment should also consider money already contributed by UCML to Mid Western Regional Council for maintenance of Ulan Road. It is well documented that UCML have raised concerns in the past about council's use of these funds.

SL added that short-term contractors must be considered also. Construction traffic and road works undertaken by Transgrid had damaged the road in many places - it's not just mine traffic.

## 5 GENERAL BUSINESS

MW advised of Ulan Community Day to be held on Sat 15 Nov 2008 at the Ulan Community House and Sportsground. All welcome. The event will be advertised in the local paper and via newsletter distribution.

Bus tour of Surface Operations commenced at 4.30pm.

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**MEETING CLOSED: 4.30PM**

**NEXT MEETING: 1 DEC 08 (3pm Start)**

### Action Status Table

ITEM	RAISED BY	Action	Responsibility	STATUS
1	BS	Distribute Preliminary Environmental Assessment	JL	Pending